



GOLDEN SANDS

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone (715) 343-6215
www.goldensandsrcd.org

RESOLUTION: In support of changing the permitting process for high capacity wells by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

INTENTION AND SYNOPSIS: To provide a more complete and accurate method of determining high capacity well permits in a manner that will protect Wisconsin's surface and/or ground waters for the use of all.

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the evaluation and permitting of high capacity wells.

WHEREAS, the current process of evaluation and permitting only gives special considerations to Classes 1,2,3 Trout Streams and Exceptional Water Resources within 1200 feet of the proposed well location.

WHEREAS, in the current process, the WDNR does not conduct an independent evaluation of environmental impacts of a high capacity well, but instead depends on the representations of the permit applicant.

WHEREAS, the permitting process has been approving any single well or one property request without consideration for the density and cumulative pumping capacity of already-existing wells in the watershed or near vicinity.

WHEREAS, science has established a connection between ground and surface waters.

WHEREAS, the Golden Sands Region pumps more groundwater than any other region in Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in *Lake Beulah v. DNR* that the WDNR has the authority and duty under the Public Trust Doctrine to consider the environmental impact of high capacity wells on Wisconsin waters when considering a permit for a high capacity well.

WHEREAS, the current evaluation and permitting of high capacity wells does not adequately monitor and/or regulate high capacity wells in a manner to prevent negative stress on Wisconsin waters, including surface and ground waters.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Golden Sands RC&D Council, Inc. that the WDNR should revise and adopt new criteria, guided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in *Lake Beulah v. DNR*, to more completely evaluate the environmental impacts of high capacity wells, including, but not limited to, the likely impacts on watershed or nearby surface and/or ground waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WDNR make an independent evaluation that includes the total impact of nearby high capacity wells in considering any new high capacity well application on Wisconsin surface and/or ground waters.